(d) Such a classification is not adopted by BIS.

(e) No. Sir.

(f) Steps like media publicity, seminars conferences, participation in buyer-seller meets and exhibitions etc. are taken to encourage the use of the ISI Marks.

Disappearance of edible oil from the markets of Gujarat

3132. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the disappearance of edible oil from the markets of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to c) In a meeting held at Gandfainagar on 30th November, 1991 with the leading millers ana traders, Union Finance Minister, Union Minister of State for Commerce, Chief-Minister Gujarat and Union Minis- ter of State for Civil Supplies and Public Distribution appealed them to reduce voluntarily the price of groundnut oil as a gesture to cooperate with the Govt, in its efforts of bringing down the. prices of the commodities. The millers and traders, who participated in the meeting, responded positively and offered to observe voluntarily a measure of price restraints and agreed to ensure sale of groundnut oil in lose at Rs. 38 per Kg. Following the announcement of this voluntary reduction in prices, there was no transaction in the initial few days as there was some confusion in the trading circles The position has now improved and reportedly there is no difficulty with the availability at present.

Strengthening of Public Distribattoll System

3133. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to distribute tea, soap, pulses, note hooks, matchboxes and washing soap through PDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether any target date has been fixed for its implementation:

(c) in what manner Government propose to strengthen the Public Distribution System in the identified intergrated tribal development projects areas, drought prone areas, desert development programme areas and designated Hill areas;. and

(d) whether Government propose to withdraw upper strata of society from' PDS altogether so that PDS benefits could reach the poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE (MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (by- Proposals to include items like tea, soap, pulses and salt for distribution through PDS outlets were discussed in the 13th meeting of Advisory Council on PDS held on 23rd & 24th August. 91 and subsequently in the Chief Minister's Conference held in October, 91. It was suggested to State Govts, that they consider distribution of a additional items using PDS outlets wherever feasible, based *on* local requirements. It was also agreed? that National level organisations such as Tea Board, NAFED, NCCF etc. would help State Governments in arranging supplies of these commodities subject to availability and acceptability of prices of these commodities. Some State Governments are already distributing such items throiigh PDS outlets.

(c) The Scheme for streamlining and strengthening of the Public Distribution System in the identified integrated tribal development project areas, drought prone areas, desert development programme areas